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A report on the origin and
progress of the American Berlin
medical society



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CORRESPONDENCE.

A REPORT ON THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE 'AMERICAN-BERLIN MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Editors of the UNIVERSITY MEDICAL MAGAZINE:

GENTLEMEN: The constantly increasing number of students that yearly seek the advantages of a course of study in Berlin, is my excuse for jotting down these few details regarding this Society, knowing that this information will be of immediate and material importance to them.

The meeting for organization took place in February, 1891, with an attendance of twelve, and at the next meeting there were about thirty-five American students present, and an organization was at once effected by appointing a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and various committees with special duties. At the next meeting there was an attendance of about fifty, and several very interesting and valuable papers were read, some of which were entirely original. At the second regular meeting of the Society there was an attendance of about sixty, and another profitable evening was spent in the discussion of papers that were presented to the Society. Many of these papers were accompanied by microscopical preparations, and these demonstrations were greatly appreciated by all present. At the next meeting the writer resigned the presidency in favor of Dr. W. D. Miller, of Berlin, who has since held the chair, and the good work of the Society can be best understood by the following resumé of the incidents that have happened since April, 1891.

During the first full year there were twenty-three meetings held at intervals of two weeks, with the exception of the vacation months of August and September. Thirty-five papers were read by the members, and there were three debates, or discussions, nineteen microscopical demonstrations and five patients were presented to the Society. Two magic lantern demonstrations were given, and they were of unusual interest, as was also the presentation of two patients treated for tuberculosis, one case of myxedema, a demonstration of hypnotism and a demonstration of the germ of influenza.

This Medical Society does not neglect the social feature, as will be seen by the following record: On July 4 a stag-dinner was given and thirteen members were present, and on July 23 a dinner was tendered the Society by the president; on July 30 the Society was presented with an onyx inkstand; on November 26 a Thanksgiving ball was given by the Society, and there were present 250 guests, many of whom were well known in German society as well as to the American colony, and there were present most of the well-known scientific men of Berlin. On February 22, 1892, Washington's Birthday was celebrated, in which seventy-five participated.

Dr. Edward Bush, Director of the Dental Institute of Berlin, was made an honorary member.

The present active membership number thirty-eight, and during the year more than ninety names have been enrolled as members. The second year was most auspicious, and active interest was shown in the Society. The average attendance at each meeting varied from twenty-five to thirty. The thanks of the Society are especially due to the present president, Dr. W. D. Miller, and to its former and original secretary, Dr. F. A. Webber, now of Milwaukee.

This Society has increased in strength so that now it occupies an advanced position in Berlin, and all questions of great interest to the large American colony there, are usually referred to it before action is taken.

In addition to the bi-monthly meetings, the members meet at regular periods for social entertainment. Further, this Society enables all the members to act in a body, so that special courses can be arranged with the *privat docents* and special rates obtained from instrument-makers and booksellers. A correct list composed of good lodgings is in charge of a special committee, and a special committee of men interested in each of the different specialties as well as in the broad domain of medicine and surgery, is appointed to collect information regarding various public and private courses of instruction in medicine, surgery and the specialties.

The advantages of this Society are so obvious that every American who proposes to study medicine in Berlin should make application to its president, Dr. W. D. Miller, and within twenty-four hours he will receive accurate and precise information regarding all the private and public courses that are given, and can arrange special courses among the members; he will be able to secure a special discount on all books and instruments which he may purchase, and at the same time he will be able to obtain a list of lodgings and restaurants where he may go and feel perfectly comfortable. This information, which he acquires so quickly, would take, in the ordinary course of events, not less than two or three weeks, and, with a strong probability that he would waste much more time, not to mention the advantage of meeting and knowing all of his countrymen that are in Berlin at the same time.

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